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NEWSLETTER OF THE VICTORIAN FOLK MUSIC CLUB INCORPORATED

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NARIEL IN THE COVID ERA



Photo by Jill Watson

(see report on pages 10-11)

ATTENTION ALL VFMC MEMBERS:

Please see messages on Page 6 about our regular Tuesday night sessions and about membership fees—due in March.

Please send your contributions for March newsletter
by: Friday 19th February to: editor@vfmc.org.au

Club Event Calendar

PLEASE NOTE: ALL LIVE EVENTS CANCELLED DURING PANDEMIC!

Club Sessions

Every Tuesday except the 2nd (concert night), Ringwood East Community Hall, Knaith Rd Reserve. 7.30 Australian Folk Songs; 8.00-10.15 main supportive round robin session for singing, playing, reciting, performing, yarns, workshops, etc. Supper. \$5 members, \$6 non members. The 4th Tues is for all-in round robin tunes, dance sets & group singing. All welcome. www.vfmc.org.au

Guest Performer Concert

On the second Tuesday of the month (instead of the weekly session) a concert is held featuring top acoustic performers. Ringwood East Community Hall. Concerts start with open stage acts at 7.45pm, finishing 10.15pm. \$14, \$12 conces and \$10 members, kids no charge. All welcome. www.vfmc.org.au

By-Ear Sessions

To be organised at a future date hopefully.

Ringwood Colonial Dance

Family Bush Dance, first Saturday of every month except January 8-11pm at the Ringwood East Senior Citizens Hall, Laurence Grove. A different band each month and all ages are welcome. \$12, \$10 concession and members, kids free. No charge. Contact: Jane 9762-1389 / www.vfmc.org.au

Ringwood Children's Dance

Every 3rd Saturday of each month except December and January. 2-3.30pm at the Ringwood East Senior Citizens Hall, Laurence Grove. Live band each month. All school age children welcome. \$5 a child, \$10 a family. Adults free.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1st Feb	2nd Club Session ZOOM	3rd	4th	5th	6th Zoom Dance
7th	8th	9th Concert Night ZOOM EVE Guest artists	10th	11th	12th	13th
14th	15th	16th Club Session ZOOM	17th	18th	19th	20th Zoom Dance (themed)
21st	22nd	23rd Club Session ZOOM	24th	25th	26th	27th
28th	29th	30th Club Session (themed) ZOOM	31st			

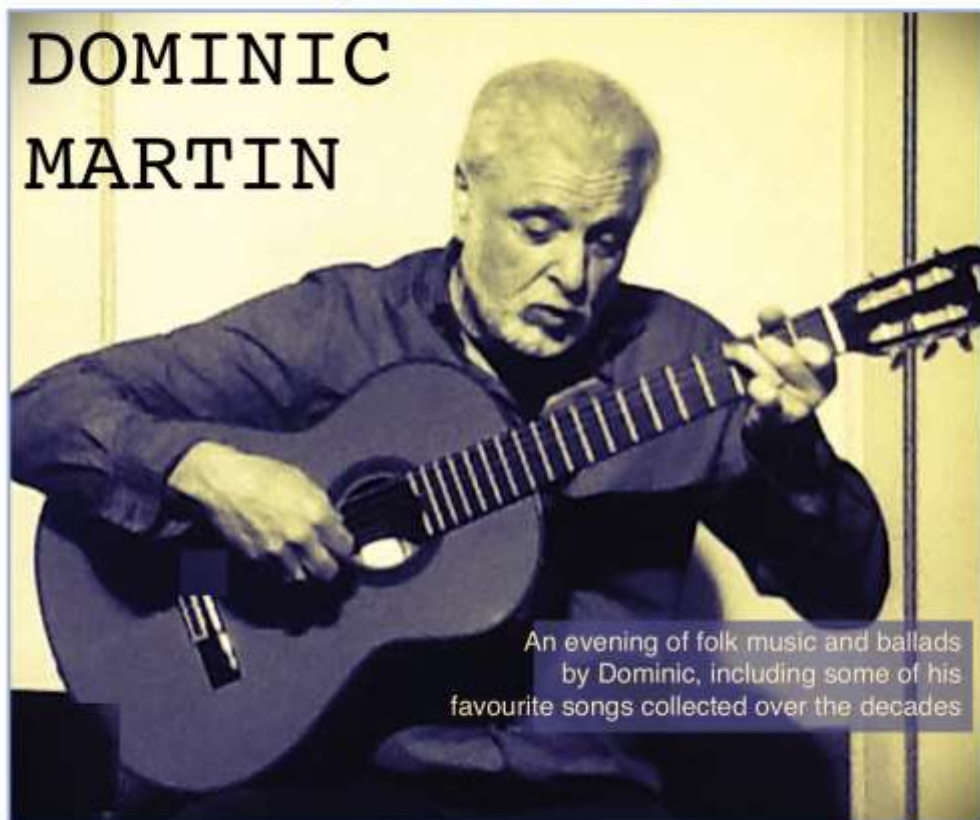


The Victorian Folk Music Club inc.

RINGWOOD FOLK

presents an Online Concert

DOMINIC MARTIN



An evening of folk music and ballads
by Dominic, including some of his
favourite songs collected over the decades

TUESDAY 9th FEBRUARY 7:30 - 9:30pm

\$10, \$8 concession, kids no charge

<https://events.humanitix.com/vfmc-feb2021-concert>

Spot acts please apply to concerts@vfmc.org.au

www.vfmc.org.au / Facebook - Victorian Folk Music Club / 0427.784.296.

Ringwood Folk is presented by The Victorian Folk Music Club inc. reg. no. A2511Y ABN 28 668 156 704

Next concert 9th March - Khristian Mizzi

ONLINE CONCERT NIGHT REPORT

Our December concert was again, a well attended event with close to fifty participating in our Zoom event. As a gesture of appreciation to our friends and supporters through the Covid travails, the event was free.



The event was MC'd by Stephen Whiteside with his usual flair and panache. We had five excellent spot acts and a wonderful main act presented by Wendy Ealey and Moira Tyers, aka The Dixie ChOOKs.

Ed Robbins kicked off the evening with two excellent songs of his own composition, the first being an ode to a certain yellow haired infamous gent whom we all hope and expect will soon be trumped as the US returns to some semblance of sanity. His second song reminisced of his youth and his father a bush pastor, and the pitfalls of bush burials that do not take account of downpours of rain and consequential flooding.



Our Tasmanian friends and highly accomplished musicians **Trish and John** followed with three items. The first was Mollerson's Hambo' performed with Trish on accordion and John on banjo. The second was a reading of prose describing a walk 'Along the Coleridge Way' by Trish, while John played an elegant musical background on the fiddle. Finally, we had two American tunes, Kitchen Bugle and Frosty Morning.

Next up, **Bill Buttler** performed perhaps a lesser known Bob Dylan song, 'Jokerman' representative of Dylan's Gospel songs from his later career, having become an evangelist. The song was several minutes long with Bill accompanying himself on guitar and harmonica.



Wal and Julie Tiedemann followed with two songs. The first, performed by Wal, was a lovely song by 'mother of folk' Jean Ritchie titled 'Come Fare Away With Me'. The second song was 'And When They Dance' by Ray Charles Abbott, sung by Wal and accompanied by Julie on the eight key Irish flute.

Finally, we were pleasantly entertained by the delightful quartet, '**Pleasant and Delightful**', being Don Fraser on concertina and uke, Robyn Hammond vocals and guitar, Kristin McFarlane on flute and Ken McGregor vocals and concertina. They performed three songs: 'Under the Linden Tree', 'Youth's The Season made for Joys' from the Beggar's Opera, and a cheery Christmas song, 'Sweet Chiming Christmas Bells'.



ONLINE CONCERT NIGHT REPORT



After a short break, we welcomed our main act, the **Dixie ChOOKs** in the charming and entertaining persona of **Wendy Ealey and Moira Tyers**. The ChOOKs have been performing together for well over ten years and their talent and experience certainly showed through. We were treated to a wonderful mix of musical wit, satire, nostalgia and fittingly, the Christmas spirit. The visual presentation Moira created with

subtle though colourful lighting, Christmas paraphernalia and musical instruments on display added great atmosphere to the performance.

The set opened with the English folk song ‘Matty Groves’, popularised by Fairport Convention, that tells of an affair between Matty and the wife of an aristocrat which ends badly when his lordship, having been tipped off, returns home and catches the lovers in the act. This was followed by a lovely rendition of ‘Somewhere Over the Rainbow’ from the Wizard of Oz.

Then came ‘Housework’, an ode to every woman’s ‘favourite’ pastime (not) and every man’s pet aversion, performed with such gusto with guitar uke and kazoo, that made housework sound like fun. Next was ‘Save Yourself’, from the Chooks’ new album ‘Free Range’. A sea shanty ‘Sailors Lament’ followed., and then an American song of the 1960s sung, among others, by Emmylou Harris, called ‘Love Hurts’.

Wendy and Moira have, in travelling to their various gigs, clearly fallen in love with the Hume Highway so much so that they felt obliged to eulogise it in song with their composition the ‘Ho Hum Highway’. This was followed by the Sandy Denny composed, Fairport Convention favourite, ‘Who Knows Where The Time Goes’.

The Sydney Carter song ‘Standing in the Rain’ was followed by a parody on the medieval carol ‘Gaudete’ made famous by Steeleye Span. For the finale, the ChOOKs wished us peace and happiness with Moira’s composition, ‘Christmas in Melbourne’.



This was a wonderful performance by two talented musicians adept at guitar (six and twelve string), ukulele, mandolin, fiddle and kazoo and with great vocals to match. We were treated to an entertaining mix of sentimental, humour and originality with a fitting blend of Christmas flavour. Well done and thank you, Dixie ChOOKs, and of course to all our great spot acts as well.

- review by Michael Hassett ; photos by Michael Hassett & Bill Buttler

THE YEAR AHEAD: 2021



Hello VFMC Members!

Welcome back to the New Year of VFMC Sessions, Dances and Concerts which I am sure will be a year of much enjoyable music making, new songs and tunes, dances and great talent. And of course good company. The first online Dance for the year will be **Saturday 16th January**, and the first online Session for the year on **Tuesday 19th January**.

All seem to agree that making music in the company of each other is preferable to soloing alone at home, and the Committee is keen to get back to meeting at the halls when we feel it is entirely safe to do so. However, that will be some time off, and plenty of notice will be given.

A short questionnaire to members will be circulated shortly to seek all your thoughts and suggestions.

Whilst meeting online over the last nine months, the Club has absorbed the costs of Zoom, public liability insurance and numerous other costs in running the Club, and will have to find expensive rent when a return to the halls is made. This may involve reviving the usual admission charges, as modest as they are, and ticketing may be necessary.

So at this stage we will continue to meet online using Zoom, starting Saturday 16th January for Dancing, and Tuesday 19th for Sessions. Let's continue to bring a good measure of enjoyment and cheer to the world, in spite of the virus situation, through making and sharing great music.

Don Fraser (VFMC Committee)

MEMBERSHIP FEES

Members are reminded that their membership fees are now due at the end of March.

Any membership that was due in June 2020 has to be renewed by March 2021. Please check your membership card to see the expiry date.

Memberships can now be paid online at vfmc.org.au Please include your surname in the descriptor. Otherwise they can be paid via cheque posted to VFMC, PO Box 215, Ringwood East, Vic. 3135 - *Trevor Voake*



The Dance Page

Diary dates for February:

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
DUE TO	COVID-19	THE VFMC	IS NOW	RUNNING	A ZOOM	DANCE
ON THE	1st & 3rd	SATURDAY	OF EACH	MONTH		



	1970s	dancers	at a Club	dance	(above)	
			<i>Photo by</i>	<i>Trevor</i>	<i>Voake</i>	

Family Bush Dance

Presented by

Victorian Folk Music Club inc

Saturday 6th Feb. 2021

with Brumbies Bush Band

Your house

Zoom ID 757 492 753
Password: VFMC2020

dance - 7.30-9.30pm



Family Bush Dance

Presented by

Victorian Folk Music Club inc

Saturday 20th Feb. 2021

Special Theme Night

Lovers and More

Your house

Zoom ID 757 492 753
Password: VFMC2020

dance - 7.30-9.30pm



NARIEL IN THE COVID ERA

Although the official Nariel Folk Festival was cancelled this year due to Covid, there was still quite a large informal gathering of campers by the Nariel Creek, happy to just relax and share tunes and enjoy the opportunity to catch up with old friends in an escape from our oppressive year of lock-downs.

Bruce and I have not been to Nariel since about 1984, thanks to family Christmas activities dominating life, but this year we were really looking forward to a change of scene, and were attracted by the scaled-down nature of this year's gathering. We arrived on December 28, well after the creekside Christmas celebrations, so I can't report on what happened during those days.

Once there, along with the music, we heard many harrowing and heroic tales of last year's fires from those who evacuated and from those who stayed to defend the campsite – good news stories of belongings returned to those who had been forced to flee, and sad tales of homes lost. It was alarming to see the all-too-visible evidence of how close the fires had come to the creek bank, but thanks to this year's good rain, the blackened trunks are already sprouting a fuzz of new leaves, and the air was full of bird song to accompany the music. Wedge-tailed eagles were circling overhead, and there was talk of platypus sightings in the creek.

*Duncan Brown and
Jeanette Gillespie
singing their hearts
out at Nariel* —————



(continued over...)

Nariel (continued)...

Stage and hall-based events were off the agenda, but the traditional “black beer party” still happened on December 28, with a big circle of chorus singers in full voice under the trees. There was also a farewell gathering in memory of Robyn Mitchell, one of the Nariel “family”.

We heard that there was also a gathering of dance enthusiasts in the caravan park at Colac-Colac, though I don’t know any details. Our time was spent cooling down in the creek, chatting with old friends and playing along in music sessions around one or another of the many fire pits. The Simpson family were very active in keeping the music going, and Jennie Simpson helped see in the New Year calling open-air dances – with couples-only contact: Virginia Reel stripped of its usual strip-the-willow (does the absence of stripping make it a “Virgin Reel”?).



— *Jenny and Ray Simpson
leading a fireside session up
at Nariel in 2021*

The midnight chorus of Auld Lang Syne was sung with particular gusto as we all joined voices to bid good riddance to 2020 and hope for a better, safer world in 2021 (but we’re not holding our breaths on that one – if nothing else, that would make singing a trifle difficult!)

- report by Jill Watson ; photos by Bruce & Jill Watson

Far Away

Ten days have never felt so far away.
Ten days until the world feels safe once more.
I have fingers crossed that Joe
Will restore the even flow
Of life upon that distant, ravaged shore;

A shore that, though so very far away,
Is in so many other ways so near.
When we see our close friends ailing
Then the prospect of our failing
Becomes a very clear and present fear.

I want to push that fear far away.
I have no truck at all with violent crimes,
But I know there's no returning,
In spite of all my yearning,
To those earlier, more comfortable times.

© *Stephen Whiteside* 10.01.2021

AN EVENING WITH LES BARKER'S BREAKFAST

The hugely popular UK poet [Les Barker](#) will be holding court in an interactive online Zoom session Sunday 17th January.

In Les's own words: *Mr Barker will pause in mid-porridge to share an hour or so's poetry and conversation with whoever's around at whatever time it is wherever you are. Then he'll give his breakfast another minute in the microwave and finish it off, but you don't have to watch that bit.*

He may be the best writer of parodies and wordplays that the English-speaking world has ever heard." - *Tom Nelligan, Dirty Linen*

"This man is a genuine genius of comic rhyme who appeals to people of all ages with a truly entertaining family show. I have seen him reduce a whole marquee full of festival goers at Victor Harbor to a mass of helpless laughter and aching sides." - *Ron Ashton, Port Lincoln Times, Australia*

It's free, but if you'd like to make a contribution towards Les (he hasn't had many festivals to attend recently!), you can do so by booking through [Humanitix](https://events.humanitix.com/les-barker) (<https://events.humanitix.com/les-barker>). Otherwise simply click on the zoom link below just before starting time.

Sunday 17th January from 7.20pm

<[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8700023750?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8700023750?pwd=Mld0T0UvdEdSTm1GSEhyb0ZiRTVSQT09)

[pwd=Mld0T0UvdEdSTm1GSEhyb0ZiRTVSQT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8700023750?pwd=Mld0T0UvdEdSTm1GSEhyb0ZiRTVSQT09)>

#: 8700023750

(Password: humph)

The session is being organised by Wayne Richmond of Humph Hall, Sydney. Please don't hesitate to get in touch if you need any help with the technology or anything else: wayne@humphhall.org 0400 803 804.



LES BARKER—QUIZ

- 1) Who is Les Barker? 2) Where was he born? 3) What is he best known for?
4) Complete the title of his work: 'Dachsunds with... 5) What country refused Les Barker a visa and why? 6) Where has he performed in Australia?

Answers to last quiz:-

- 1) *An Irish folk music band* 2) *An Irish melody for the harp written in triplets*
3) *1972* 4) *Christy Moore* 5) *Twice* 6) *2005* 7) *'Raggle Taggle Gypsy', 'Only the Rivers Run Free', 'West Coast of Clare', 'The Jolly Beggar'*.
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BILLABONG BAND REPORT—DECEMBER 2020

Recent events:

December 5th— VFMC Christmas Bush Dance.

Members of the Billabong Band played for the December (Zoom) Dance which was very successful. Multiple callers & 5 band members were suitably spaced at Jane & Steve's. Due to space restrictions only a limited number could play. It really was great to play with other musicians in the flesh in place of seeing them on a screen. It will be truly terrific when we can all get back together again.

Upcoming events:

March 6th: VFMC Saint Patrick's Day zoom Bush Dance. There will be a limited number of Billabong Band members again due to Covid 19 restrictions.

No further bookings for 2021 at present.

- *Co ordinators: Maree, Stan and Trevor*

Regular Functions at Other Venues (on hold now)

Bendigo Folk Club

Graham Borrell, 0438 437 680
 buzza@bendigo.net.au
 Feature concert on the 3rd Friday of each month 8-11pm, under the grandstand at the Queen Elizabeth oval, Bendigo

Bush Dance and Music Club of Bendigo Inc

Monthly bush dance at Bendigo East, third Saturday every month, at Holy Trinity Church Hall, Keck St, Flora Hill. Contact Mary Smith 5442-1153 or email secretary@bendigobushdance.org.au

Berwick and District Folk Club

Edward Nass / Christine Trimmell,
 03 9702 1223 /0418 535 264
 badfolk@optusnet.com.au
 Featured artist 3rd Friday February to December, The Old Cheese Factory, 34 Homestead Road, Berwick Vic. 3806
 www.badfolk.org.au

Boite World Music Cafe

Theseire Virtue 03 9417 1983
 admin@boite.asn.au
 Friday & Saturday - March to November, 1 Mark St, North Fitzroy, www.boite.asn.au

Geelong Folk Music Club

Ade Kelly (03)5241-3749,
 adenmyra@bigpond.com.au, Pete Fogarty (03)5339-7887. Featuring quality acts from around the country and overseas. Sessions every Thursday at Hotel Max, 2 Gheringhap St, Geelong. Open Mic. Performance events first Tuesday at Irish Murphy's, 30 Aberdeen St & 3rd Tuesdays at Hotel Max. Bookings: Paula Grembka 0401 671 1310.
<http://www.geelongfolkmusicclub.com/>

Comhaltas (Collingwood)

Joan and Ray Mundy run a session on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of every month, starts 7.30pm. Supper. Marce: 9471-0690

Gippsland Acoustic Music Club

Barbara Brabets, 03 5174 7403
 Local musicians and concert opportunities.
 1st Sunday at 7:45 pm, Tyers Hall, Tyers
 www.musicclub.org

Selby Folk Club

David Miller, 03 9751 1218
 miller@a1.com.au
 1st Friday every month, at 8:00 pm, Selby Community House Minok Reserve
 www.home.aone.net.au/~selbyfolkclub

Peninsula Folk Club

First Sunday of each month, at the Frankston Bowling Club on the corner of Yuille Street and Williams Rd, Frankston, from 6:30 pm on. Carparking, great facilities, no stairs.
 peninsulafolkclub.org.au

Creswick Folk Club

Second Friday, from 7.30 pm at the American Hotel in Creswick; and Fourth Friday, from 7.30 pm at the Old Station in Creswick.
 Enquiries: Graeme: 03 5334 5551
www.facebook.com/creswickfolkclub/

Fireside Fiddlers

For fiddles plus other string melody instruments, such as mandolins.
 Every Monday evening at various venues. For further information, contact Denise Hibbs: 0402 050 524

Newport Folk Club

Certain Friday nights at 7.30 pm plus other evenings, e.g. Tues Blues and Sunday 2 pm singalongs etc.
 See website for up-to-date calendar.

THE VICTORIAN FOLK MUSIC CLUB INCORPORATED

INVITES YOU TO JOIN THE CLUB

Members of the VFMC are entitled to -

- The monthly Club Newsletter
- Concessions at Club events
- Discounts on Club publications
- Discounts on Club CD's
- Affiliation with other organizations

VFMC Postal Address

P.O. Box 215, Ringwood East, Vic. 3135

VFMC Website

<http://www.vfmc.org.au>

Contacts

Secretary

Jane Bullock
 Telephone: 9762 1389
 Email: secretary@vfmc.org.au

Ringwood East Folk Club

Don Fraser
 Telephone: 0407 737 202
 Email: sessions@vfmc.org.au

Family/Children's Bush Dance

Jane Bullock
 Telephone: 9762 1389
 Email: dance@vfmc.org.au

Concert Party Engagements

Maree Buttler
 Telephone: 9733 0802
 Email: billabongband@vfmc.org.au

Iwish to become a member of the Victorian Folk Music Club Inc. and will

- (a) Support the aims of the Victorian Folk Music Club Inc and
 - (b) Abide by the rules of the Victorian Folk Music Club Inc.
- (For details see: - <http://www.vfmc.org.au/Constitution.pdf>)

Signed

I wish to receive my Newsletter by:

- (a) Email or/and
- (b) Post

(Cross out whichever is not applicable)

Please post completed form to:

The Secretary
 VFMC
 PO Box 215
 Ringwood East 3135 Victoria

Membership Type (please circle)

<u>Metro</u> Single	\$25
Family*	\$30
Junior (u 18)	\$15
Student (full time)	\$20
Single Concession	\$20
Family Concession*	\$25

<u>Country</u> Single	\$20
Family*	\$25

*Family - Parent/s & any children under 18

Name:

Address:

Email:

Phone/s: